Project on old age and income security for senior citizens

475. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have commissioned any project on old age and income security as a welfare measure for the senior citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of senior citizens covered under the project in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the facilities being extended to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had commissioned, in August, 1998 a Project OASIS (an acronym of Old Age Social and Income Security) to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The Committee, headed by Dr. S. A. Dave, former Chairman of Unit Trust of India, submitted its final report to the Government on 11.1.2000. The report contains recommendations on the schemes and actions that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough savings during his/her working life, which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The recommendations contained in the report have a twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers who are not included in the present pension provisions but are capable of saving modest amounts and converting these savings into Old Age Income Security.

(c) and (d) The questions do not arise as the report is still under consideration of the Government.

Welfare schemes for upliftment of SCs, STs, minorities etc.

476. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new welfare schemes formulated and implemented, so far, by Government in different parts of the country for the upliftment of SCs,